

CLAIMS

1. A method of collecting a copyright fee relating to a document when a user obtains, via coded data disposed on a surface, the document, the method including, in a
5 computer system, the steps of:

recording at least one copyright ownership relating to at least one portion of the document;

receiving, from a sensing device, indicating data indicative of a request for the document, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the
10 surface, generating the indicating data using at least some of the coded data;

identifying, from the indicating data, the request for the document;

providing the document to the user;

determining the copyright fee from the at least one copyright ownership; and

debiting a user account associated with the user in the amount of the copyright
15 fee.

2. The method of claim 1, including the further step of crediting at least one owner account associated with the at least one copyright ownership in the amount of the copyright fee.

20

3. The method of claim 1, including the further step of printing the document.

4. The method of claim 1, including the further steps of:

receiving, from the sensing device, identity data indicative of an identity of the
25 user, the sensing device containing the identity data; and

identifying, from the identity data, the user account.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the coded data is indicative of an identity of a region of the surface and of a plurality of reference points of the region, and the indicating data is indicative of the identity of the region and a position of the sensing device relative to the region.

5

6. A system for collecting a copyright fee relating to a document when a user obtains, via coded data disposed on a surface, the document, the system including:

a database for recording at least one copyright ownership relating to at least one portion of the document;

10

a receiver for receiving, from a sensing device, indicating data indicative of a request for the document, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the surface, generating the indicating data using at least some of the coded data; and

a processing means;

15

the processing means being configured to:

identify, from the indicating data, the request for the document;

provide the document to the user;

determine the copyright fee from the at least one copyright ownership; and

debit a user account associated with the user in the amount of the copyright fee.

20

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the processing means is further configured to credit at least one owner account associated with the at least one copyright ownership in the amount of the copyright fee.

8. The system of claim 6, further including a printer for printing the document.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein the processing means is further configured to:

identify, using the identity data, the user account.

- 10

11-23-63